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12/6/02

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**POLLUTION REPORT**

## I. HEADING

**Date:** December 6, 2002

**Subject:** J-Pitt Steel Melt Shop Site, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois
**From:** Brad Benning, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator, Region 5

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**POLREP No:** 4

## II. BACKGROUND

**Site No:** B5Y2
**Response Authority:** CERCLA (PRP)
**CERCLIS No:** ILN000508169
**NPL Status:** No
**State Notification:** ILL. EPA
**Status of Action Memorandum:** Signed 7/16/01
**Enforcement Status:** AOC signed 8/3/01
**Start Date:** April 5, 2001
**Completion Date:** N/A

## III. SITE INFORMATION

### A. Incident Category

CERCLA PRP lead removal action

### B. Site Description

The J-Pitt Steel Melt Shop Site is a former steel making operation located in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The site, located in an industrial area at 3151 South California Avenue, has been abandoned since 1997. The site is bordered to the north by the Chicago Illinois Western Railroad tracks, to the east by a scrap metal operation, to the south by the Chicago Sanitary District Canal (the Canal), and to the west by California Avenue. The site consists of a large industrial building in good condition, divided into three sections. Section one, the northern most section of the building is approximately 630 feet by 98 feet, section two is 760 feet by 60 feet, and section three, adjacent to the Canal, is 530 feet by 72 feet. Scattered throughout the facility are large pieces of steel making equipment, including a furnace, baghouses, a cooling tower, and numerous large transformers. Near the furnace in section three, a series of elevated platforms and walkways

remain intact. Large quantities of various industrial materials used in the steel making process, including silica, insulating Tundish spray, and magnesium oxide remain in the building.

### C. Description of Threat

Numerous drums, fuel storage containers, paint cans, poly tanks, and miscellaneous small containers are scattered throughout the site. The contents of these drums and containers include oils, grease, acids, paints, cleaning fluids and other unknown materials. Several pits containing unknown liquids are located in sections two and three. In addition, large piles of slag, dust, and flyash are present the building, mainly in section three. Asbestos and radioactive material is also present on-site. Site access is not completely restricted and previous trespassers on-site have removed the majority of the electrical equipment and copper wiring.

## IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

### A. Response Activities to Date (May 17, 2002 thru December 17, 2002)

June

1. Resampling of surface soils inside the building and slag piles proposed for Streamlined Risk Assessment.
2. Propose to develop ARARs for subsurface soils.
3. Water in pits determined to be non-hazardous, requiring no removal action.
4. Dry goods inside building determined to be non-hazardous, requiring no removal action.
5. Fallen asbestos was removed 5/21/02, by EHC Ind. of Wauconda, IL approximately ½ cu. ft.
6. Considering applying TACO standards to the oils found in the groundwater.
7. Maintaining boom.
8. Radioactive wear needles removed by Radiametrics, Inc. of Lorain, Ohio on 5/20/02.
9. Requesting bids for Drum removal work.

July

1. Continue to maintain boom.
2. Requesting bids for the disposal of 26 drums of K061 rinsate water from baghouse decontamination.

August

1. K061 rinsate water removed by SET Environmental to EQ Michigan Disposal on 8/5/02.
2. K061 debris (PPE and visqueen) removed by Dart Trucking to CID Landfill, Chicago. IL on 8/5/02.
3. On 8/20/02, replaced 200 feet of boom in the canal.

September

1. On 9/4/02, sampling was conducted for hex chrome in the slag piles and surface soils for the Streamlined Risk Assessment.
2. SET Environmental was selected for the drum removal work.

October

1. Analytical data received for slag piles and surface soils, proceeding with Streamlined Risk Assessment.
2. Scope of Work developed for drum removal.

November

1. Streamlined Risk Assessment completed, based on these calculations Burns & McDonnell concludes that exposure to metals in soil and the slag is unlikely to pose an appreciable human health risk, and that no removal action is warranted.
2. 11/12/02, USEPA approves work plan for drum removal phase.
3. 11/14/02, both sections of boom replaced on canal.
4. 11/25/02, start of drum work by SET Environmental, sampling for disposal, lab packing, pumping out non-hazardous oils from 126 containers, and profiling waste streams for disposal. This phase of the work was completed on 12/4/02.

**B. Next Steps**

1. Continue with the drum removal work.
2. Consider applying TACO as an ARAR and developing other ARARs ; if necessary, to address the remaining detectable concentrations of PCBs and TPH identified in the test pit and subsurface soil.
3. Perform visual inspection of the Canal to observe boom conditions.

**C. Key Issues**

The Streamlined Risk Assessment will be reviewed by ATSDR and/or an USEPA Toxicologist to concur with the PRPs findings regarding the surface soils and slag piles.

## V. ESTIMATED COSTS (through December 6, 2002)

| | Used | Ceiling | Percent Remaining |
|---|---|---|---|
| ERRS | $ 30.000 | $ 35,000 | 15% |
| START | $ 6.500 | $ 25,000 | 73 % |
| U.S. EPA | $ 11.000 | $ 28,200 | 61% |

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on amounts known by the OSC at the time of the preparation of this report. The cost accounting data shown in this report does not necessarily represent the exact monetary figures which the U.S. Government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

## VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

**DISPOSITION OF WASTES**
**31st AND CALIFORNIA**
**CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

| Wastestream / Backfill | Medium | Quantity | Units | Treatment | Disposal Facility |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Artillery Rounds | N/A | 258 | Each | None | |
| K061 - Electric arc furnace dust | | 150 tons | | Stabil. | Waste Managemenet CID Area 4 |
| K061 - Rinsate | | 26 drums | | Stabil. | EQ Michigan Disposal |
| K061 - Debris | | 20 tons | | Stabil. | Waste Management CID Area 4 |
| Radioactive wear needles | | 10 needles | | none | Radiametrics, Inc. Lorain, Ohio |
| Non-hazardous liquids/oils | | 126 drums | | none | SET Environmental |